

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments under 37 CFR §1.312 as amendments that do not affect the scope of the invention.

Claim 15 has been amended to correct an obvious typographical error.

Claims 20-40 were previously canceled as being directed to a non-elected invention.

Applicants introduce herein new claims 41-52. Claims 41-43 correspond respectively to previously non-elected claims 20-23. However, claims 41-43 now include the features of allowed independent claim 1. Accordingly, claims 41-43 are now directed to the same elected invention and should be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

New claims 44-52 correspond to original claims 24-32, and are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as claims 41-43 from which they depend.

Regarding the Reasons for Allowance set forth in the Notice of Allowance, applicants wish to point out an apparent typographical error. The lower limit of the $\text{SiN}_x\text{:H}$ ratio in the Reasons for Allowance should read 0.3 (and not 0.6), as claims 1 and 15 specify 0.3.

Accordingly, all presented claims are believed to be allowable and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Entry of the amendment and issuance of the patent with claims 1-4, 6-17, 19 and 41-52 is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would help to facilitate favorable prosecution of this application, Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the phone number below.

Serial No.: 10/735,375

Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

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